



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak all Parish Council meetings will be held remotely via Zoom virtual conferencing until further notice.

- 193/20 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Adam, Barker, Boswell, Jones, Mannington (in the chair), Robertson, Stevens, Tippen and Turner were in attendance. The Clerk and two members of the public were also present.
- 194/20 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Brown had given her apologies.
- 195/20 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**  
Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were agreed but would be signed at the next available meeting when the Full Council convenes in person.
- 196/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 201/20(a) and 203/20(a) as a resident neighbouring Southons Field. Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 201/20(a) and 203/20(a) as a resident neighbouring Marden Playing Field.
- 197/20 **CHANGES TO CLLRS REGISTERS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Mannington has been elected as President of Weald of Kent Ploughing Match and needed to amend her register of interest. Congratulations were given by all Cllrs.
- 198/20 **GRANTING OF DISPENSATION:**  
There were no requests for dispensation of any item on this agenda
- 199/20 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** Two members of the public wished to raise questions under item 202/20(c)(i).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no items raised under public forum.

### **200/20 CLERK'S REPORT**

This had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and included the following for noting: Staff leave, CoVid-19 signage purchased for school and hall, consideration be given to risk assessments for when play areas and toilets are reopened, Deputy Clerk ILCA training, website accessibility update and reviewing return to office working.

### **201/20 AMENITIES**

- (a) Update on any open space issues (Southons Field, Playing Field or Cemetery) The Clerk and Deputy Clerk met prior to the meeting to have a walk around. The caretakers to do list was updated in view of what had/hadn't been achieved and this would be sent out to both caretakers once finalised.
- (b) Changing Facilities/Football Club: MMFC have contacted MPC regarding playing this coming season with Under 14s and Sunday teams playing at Marden. Fees for Under 14s were discussed and it was proposed that £40 would be charged. MMFC were also

investigating funding streams for the changing facilities.

- (c) Other Amenities Issues to report: The Deputy Clerk was arranging a meeting to obtain a quote regarding legionnaires at changing rooms and public toilets. Reports of anti-social behaviour at the play area had been received and the Clerk was arranging to meet with PCSO Nicola Morris to view the CCTV footage. The Deputy Clerk would post on Facebook in regard to continue reporting anti-social behaviour.

MBC would be contacted regarding risk assessment for the opening of play areas.

The Clerk was asked to contact Branchley Parish Council regarding risk assessments for opening of public toilets.

202/20 **PLANNING:**

- (a) Planning Applications:

- (i) 20/501928/FULL – Murzie Farm, Hunton Road

Replacement of existing garage with new outbuilding and change of use of small section of driveway extension to incorporate within the residential curtilage of Murzie Farm (resubmission of 19/504286/FULL)

Cllrs felt it was overlarge for the site. It does not appear materially different from the previous application regarding the impact on the open countryside and therefore Cllrs recommend refusal. Reiterate previous comments and the officer's report for application 19/504286.

- (ii) 20/502326/PNEXT – Gate Field, Goudhurst Road

Prior notification for a proposed single storey rear extension which (A) extends by 5.5 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling; (B) has a maximum height of 3.2 metres from the natural ground level and (C) has a height of 2.42 metres at the eaves from the natural ground level.

Cllrs noted the extension but wished for clarification as to whether planning application was required for the relocation of the garage.

- (iii) 20/502444/FULL – The Old House, Howland Road

Erection of detached garage with accommodation over

Cllrs discussed the application and, in relation to its shape and size, Cllrs felt it was overlarge within the curtilage of a listed building. Cllrs felt it was contrary to Marden Neighbourhood Plan Policy BE1 and that in this instance poses a detrimental impact to the building in relation to the scale and mass of the proposal. Therefore they recommended refusal.

- (iv) Listed Building Consent for The Old House, Howland Road

LBC for erection of detached garage with accommodation over

Cllrs noted that this had not yet been received and this would be raised with MBC.

- (b) MBC Planning Decisions:

20/501708/FULL – Dirt House, Summerhill Road – Granted

- (c) Other Planning Issues to report

- (i) MBC – Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June – this meeting discussed the likely sites/garden village proposals. Marden north of the railway site was one which was raised.

The Clerk read out the following questions from the members of public in attendance:

Question 1: *In light of the fact that the Firmin scheme for Marden has now made it through the first round of decision making by MBC and it looks like it might make it on to the list of the preferred options for Members to vote on in the Autumn, how are MPC planning to use their contacts, resources and skill to influence the MBC Councillors that will be undertaking the vote in the Autumn over the next couple of months as these Councillors*

Office Opening Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 12 noon

Email: [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

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*are being briefed on the likely sites/garden community schemes by the officers now (July):*  
It is understood that no decision had been made following the Local Plan consultation late last year. Cllr Turner reported that at the previous consultation Marden Parish Council responded to say that all large sites were not suitable for a garden village. Cllr Tippen was attending the KALC Parish Liaison meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July and would take any questions regarding the Local Plan to this meeting. Cllrs advised to view the recording of the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure meeting where details had been discussed. Cllr Adam raised three questions (1) what material would be made available; (2) would any material be made public; and (3) if so, when. The Clerk would email MBC to ask these questions and Cllr Tippen would take to the Parish Liaison meeting.

Question 2: *Does the Parish Council feel that, in light of the very strong responses from Staplehurst PC and other parish councils facing a garden village proposal, that it might be time to change tact and for MPC to clearly and unambiguously represent the strong views of their parishioners on this particular topic?*

A lot of time had been spent on this in the original Parish Council consultation and residents had been listened to following which MPC had provided a planning-led response back to MBC.

A meeting would be arranged with MPC and Borough Cllr David Burton to discuss further.

20.30 one member of the public left the meeting.

#### 203/20 **OTHER MEETINGS HELD**

(a) S106 expenditure / Southons Field capital spend: The Open Space/S106 Sub-Committee Cllr Tippen provided an update of what had been discussed and proposed:

S106 expenditure: 4 new benches at a cost of £1,860 which would match those already purchased for the play area. 2 new litter bins at a cost of £813.96. Cllrs agreed for the money to be applied for.

Capital: Southons Field: 2 additional picnic benches (circular and wheelchair accessible) and an a two-bay swing to add to the existing play trail. Quotes for these and surfacing were being obtained. A quote for an additional sign had been obtained at a cost of £145. This would match the one which is already in position at the entrance – Cllrs agreed this quote.

Capital: Cemetery: 3 quotes had been looked at for an aluminium notice board and it was recommended that the quote of £1,068.98 be accepted. Cllrs agreed this quote. Further quotes were being obtained for new litter bins.

#### 204/20 **FINANCE**

(a) Invoices for payment – previously circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Viking	Printer Ink	£43.18
Pear Technology	Annual technical support	£270.00
Came & Company	Annual insurance	£2,221.53
Graham Tippen	Purchase of cemetery roses	£89.45
NALC	Local Council Award Scheme Reg. Fee	£60.00
Postage by Phone	Office postage	£100.00
Pitney Bowes	Franking machine rental	£15.54
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£2,799.70</b>

Invoices were approved and Cllrs Boswell and Stevens would authorise.

Cllr Turner reported that he had now registered to authorise payments on Unity.

#### 205/20 **HIGHWAYS**

Highways Improvement Plan. The updated document had been circulated. Cllr Tippen had

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spoken to Kent Highways and it is most probable that only one or two schemes would be delivered each year. Cllr Tippen wanted to ensure that everything had been included and that the priorities were correct and proposed that a further meeting be held next Tuesday to discuss the priorities. Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Mannington and Tippen along with the Clerk would attend.

206/20 **OTHER URGENT PARISH MATTERS:**  
(a) **For Decision**

Changes to Coronavirus Guidance Cllrs to review any changes to guidance received prior to the meeting – this was discussed earlier in the meeting regarding the opening of play areas and toilets.

Following the changes in guidance published today libraries may open from the 4<sup>th</sup> July but it was unclear whether Marden would be one of these – The Clerk would contact County Councillor Eric Hotson for an update. Cllrs agreed to purchase 4 more social distancing signage to use outside the library once it had reopened.

(b) **For Discussion / Information**

The Deputy Clerk had received an email from the Community Pay Back Team – at the current time they are not undertaking any work but when they were able to return they would finish those jobs which had been running before lockdown.

Cllr Boswell asked when the newsletter would be ready for delivery. It was due to go to print this Friday and hoped to be received back in the office by the following week.

Cllr Adam reported that MBC are due to lift their emergency parking concessions which were in force during lockdown. The Deputy Clerk would upload the link to Facebook.

At the last meeting County Councillor Hotson informed the Cllrs that KCC Members Grant would be available until January 2021. It was proposed that the Council would revisit this once the Highways Improvement Plan had been completed and Cllrs had met with Kent Highways in July.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: .....

Date:

Chairman - Marden Parish Council